Application No.: 09/700,372 Docket No.: 21625-00032-US

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (previously amended) A method for manufacturing an article, comprising:

providing a three-dimensional mould and a control unit to enable at least adjustment of a voltage level of one or more treatment blocks of the mould;

providing a multi-component polymer-based material;

individually heating components of the multi-component polymer-based material with a heating unit;

mixing the components together and spraying the multi-component polymer-based material in an electrically charged state into an electrical field onto the mould with a single-spray processing unit to form a coating on the mould, wherein the mould is not grounded, and wherein mixing of the components and spraying of the multi-component polymer-based material are carried out simultaneously; and

removing the article from the mould following sufficient curing of the coating.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising treating a surface of said mould with one or more surface-tension regulating surfactants selected from a group consisting of a silicon-based, a polyolefine-based and a corresponding agent to facilitate demoulding/stripping of the article from the mould, wherein the surface tension of the material is adjusted relative to the surface tension of the mould.

4. (previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the article is an elastic product selected from a piece of clothing, a glove, or a condom.

5. (canceled)

PAGE 9/15 * RCVD AT 8/16/2004 1:22:21 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/0 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:2022936229 * DURATION (mm-ss):04-16

6. (previously amended) A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a desired wall thickness of the article is achieved at any given point on the surface of the mould by providing the mould with two or more treatment blocks, which are set at voltage levels substantially different from each other.

7. (previously amended) A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the spraying the polymer-based material comprises one or more changes in process parameters, the process parameters selected from the group consisting of volume flow of the polymer-based material, viscosity of the polymer-based material or a component thereof, and the electrical field.

8. (previously amended) An apparatus for manufacturing a thin-walled article, the apparatus comprising:

two or more reservoirs that contain a polymer-based material that comprises one or more components;

one or more pressurizing units to adjust the pressure of the polymer-based material;

a single-processing unit to electrically charge the polymer-based material and form a spray of electrically charged material onto a three-dimensional mould, wherein the mould is not grounded, and wherein the single-processing unit is adapted to simultaneously mix the components, electrically charge the material and spray the material; and

a control unit to adjust at least a voltage level of one or more treatment blocks of the mould.

9. (previously amended) An apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein the apparatus further comprises a heating unit to heat the polymer-based material.

10. (previously amended) An apparatus as set forth in claim 8 wherein the mould comprises at least two treatment blocks whose voltage levels are independently adjustable.

11. (canceled)

PAGE 10/15 * RCVD AT 8/16/2004 1:22:21 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/0 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:2022936229 * DURATION (mm-ss):04-16

12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 3, wherein the article is an elastic product selected from a piece of clothing, a glove, or a condom.

14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 3, wherein the material is a multi-component polymer-based material comprising at least two ingredients that are individually heated by a heating unit, mixed together, and charged electrically.

16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 3, wherein a desired wall thickness of the article is achieved at any given point on the surface of the mould by providing the mould with two or more treatment blocks, which are set at voltage levels substantially different from each other.

18. (previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 4, wherein a desired wall thickness of the article is achieved at any given point on the surface of the mould by providing the mould with two or more treatment blocks, which are set at voltage levels substantially different from each other.

19. (previously amended) A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a desired wall thickness of the article is achieved at any given point on the surface of the mould by providing the mould with two or more treatment blocks, which are set at voltage levels substantially different from each other.

20. (canceled)

21. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the polymer-based material includes at least two components.

PAGE 11/15 * RCVD AT 8/16/2004 1:22:21 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/0 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:2022936229 * DURATION (mm-ss):04-16

22. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the control unit is adapted to control one or more process parameters ~~is~~ selected from the group consisting of volume flow of the polymer-based material, viscosity of the manufacturing material or a component thereof, and the electrical field.

PAGE 12/15 * RCVD AT 8/16/2004 1:22:21 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/0 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:2022936229 * DURATION (mm-ss):04-16